

DDP-72-1420

31 March 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Division and Staff Chiefs

SUBJECT : The CIA and the CS Historical Programs

1. The Agency and the CS historical programs will continue beyond FY 1972 but will be considerably reduced in size. Future histories will be focused on major Agency activity and will analyze the contributions of various Agency components to overall Agency operations. Few, if any, organizational histories will be scheduled in the future. Attention will be directed to such titles as The Cuban Missile Crisis, The Vietnam War, The War in Laos, Congo Operations, U-2 Operations, etc. (Some of these titles have been definitively or partially covered in papers already published by the CS or by other directorates.)

2. Where a subject concerns the CS exclusively or predominantly it will be prepared within and be controlled by the CS and CS components. Other, broader and major subjects which involve other directorates or overall Agency policy will be prepared at the Agency level with the CS contributing in writing or providing research support.

3. Papers in the current program, including organizational and station histories, which are nearing completion should, to the extent possible, be finished and published. Papers on which little progress has been made, or which have not been started, will in most instances have to be set aside. Partial drafts, where judged of value, should be retained as a part of the component historical collection.

4. In the future a very limited number of annuitants will be re-hired on contract as historical writers and only in instances where they are particularly qualified to prepare specific histories which have been approved by the DDP for the new program. The primary qualification required in these contract and other writers is the ability to write, analyze, and organize material. Past involvement in the subject matter of a historical paper may be a consideration, but a secondary one.

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5. It is evident that, with reduced personnel ceilings and overriding priorities, qualified staff employees will be less frequently available for participation in the historical program. When qualified personnel can be spared for significant periods, however, they should be assigned to prepare or contribute to historical papers. In making such assignments component management should avoid using the historical program, as in the past, merely to accommodate personnel who have become surplus to other programs.

6. Divisions and staffs are invited to propose titles along the lines described in para 1, above. They may involve the component, the CS or the Agency as a whole but should be focused on major operations, programs, or crises. From these and other proposals the new Agency and CS historical programs will be formulated. There will be further consultation with the components in the course of selecting titles and writers. Divisions and staffs that have previously submitted suggestions for the new programs need not repeat them unless they have something to add.

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Thomas H. Karamessines
Deputy Director for Plans

Distribution:

- 1 ea Division & Staff Chief
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